THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is already permitted in Shipping and Port infrastructure.

(c) Yes, Sir..

(d) The cruise shipping policy is under formulation and is likely to be finalized by March, 2006.

(e) 100% FDI is already permitted in Shipping sector.

Development of roads in Uttaranchal

3320. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the various roads in the State of Uttaranchal as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present, emphasis is given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Model drivers training schools in NER

3321. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments/NGOs are being given assistance for setting up model drivers training schools ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any such school for training of drivers has been opened in North East, more particular in Assam and if so, the locations thereof; and

(d) the number of drivers that have been trained during the current year under refresher training schemes of heavy vehicles?